



CGAPS FINDINGS:

- Current alien-species prevention and control programs are inadequate to protect Hawaii. Resources to deal with the 200-500 invasive species that already severely impact our economy, agriculture, native ecosystems, and quality of life fall far short of what is needed to provide meaningful prevention and control. In the past five years, an average of over 100 newly established alien species have been documented in Hawaii yearly. Hundreds more are imported each year and many of these will become future pests.
- Investments are most urgently needed in prevention, early detection, and rapid response programs. Alien invasions are controlled most efficiently and effectively and at the lowest cost early in the invasive process. Hence, money that provides effective quarantine barriers to prevent invasive species from arriving, and which provides rapid-response teams to stop pests from becoming established, is the best investment of public resources. Providing support for prevention, detection, and early eradication programs should be the highest priority of the State in preventing alien invasions at this time.
- The State of Hawaii can't meet the need alone. An integrated funding plan that incorporates contributions from the State, the federal government, and private industry sources is needed to provide the fiscal resources for a sustainable invasive species protection and control program. Furthermore, authorities for preventing and controlling invasive alien pests are spread across numerous State and federal agencies, making close coordination of activities among these agencies imperative.
- Policy/authority changes can help Hawaii meet invasive species challenges. Although inadequate funding is a major impediment to effective invasive species prevention and control, State laws also do not address the problem in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion. Consequently, gaps in authority and lack of clear policy direction hinder efforts to prevent and eliminate alien pest invasions.
- Biological control needs to be a key component of any effective long-term control program. Action is also required to minimize the effects of hundreds of invasive species already widespread in Hawaii. Biological control uses predators and disease organisms of invasive pests from their native ranges. It provides the only cost-effective method for reducing the negative impacts of priority invasive species that are already well established in Hawaii.
- Relatively small investments in outreach and education can leverage greater public understanding and voluntary compliance. Public acceptance and understanding of the State's goals and programs for controlling alien pests is necessary if those programs are to be successful. Hawaii has made great strides in educating its citizenry about the problems invasive pests pose. But the issues are frequently complex and continued efforts are needed to ensure public understanding and support over the long term.

Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species

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